WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 NOVEMBER 1993

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

Photo by Karen O'Neal

Western Kiwanis Club members at work on MoMS fence last summer. They are (left to right) Jack Behler, Paul Herndon, Al Dailey (white shorts), and Carl Miano.

KAREN'S COLUMN

WESTERN KIWANIANS PAINTED AND PAINTED AND PAINTED MoMS FENCE, DESERVE TOM SAWYER AWARD

Our Appreciation, Thanks and Eternal Gratitude to the Ann Arbor Western Kiwanis Club for painting our fences at the Museum on Main Street. This job expanded greatly after they agreed to do the work!

When I first spoke to them, I led them to believe that all the fence required was one coat of opaque stain. However, as we talked to Anderson's Paint, who donated the stain, it became clear that a quality job required a coat of primer followed by two coats of stain.

The following Kiwanians, under the able leadership of organizer Al Dailey, stuck with it and got the job done. Applause and thanks to painters:

Jack Behler	Doug Nie
Jeff Crause	Al Paul
Al Dailey	Kent Poli
Paul Herndon	Tom Raynes
Doug Hoppe	Jim Szumko
Carl Miano	Rick Wresche

They have earned the WCHS "Tom Sawyer Award!"

Western Kiwanis sells boxes of Florida citrus fruit at Christmas time. Fruit can be ordered through November and there will be order blanks at our November 21st meeting. I hope WCHS members can support their project.

Western Kiwanis is also one of the sponsors of a Christmas Sing at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, November 28 at the Michigan Theater. It's free and it begins with tree decorating and refreshments at 12:30 p.m.

Versile Fraleigh of Ann Arbor Snow Removal has again graciously agreed to sweep the Museum's sidewalks this winter. We are so grateful for this generous gift.

LUNCHEON, FASHION SHOW TO BENEFIT WCHS MUSEUM

A luncheon and informal fashion show at The Moveable Feast, 326 West Liberty, Friday, December 3, will benefit WCHS's Museum on Main Street.

All proceeds will go to restoring the interior of the Museum.

Models, including some WCHS members, will circulate about during lunch, wearing fashions from Alexandra's of Kerrytown and Renaissance Men's Fashions. Kerrytown merchants and The Moveable Feast are contributing goods and gift certificates for door prizes.

Luncheon will be served 11:30-2 p.m. A choice of entree, dessert and beverage will be offered. Ample parking in GT Products lot across street. Tickets: $20 per person or $22.50 at the door. Watch for a reservation form in your dues letter. Information: 662-9092.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION TALK BY JANET KREGER PLANNED NOVEMBER 21

Janet Kreger, now a major gift officer at U-M, formerly traveled all over Michigan looking at potential historic districts and photographing designated sites and structures when she was employed at the State Historic Preservation Office in Lansing.

She will talk on *"Historic Preservation in Michigan, It's More Than You Think"* at the WCHS meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday, November 21 in Bentley Library on the U-M North Campus.

She has also taught introduction to historic preservation and decorative arts courses at Eastern Michigan University and is active in the Michigan Historic Preservation Network.

TIME TO RENEW WCHS MEMBERSHIP, SOCIETY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

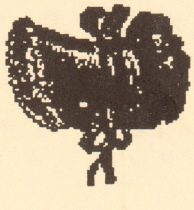
Washtenaw County Historical Society has been promoting an interest in local history for many years through programs, publications and exhibits.

Since 1990, the Society has been working to establish a museum of county history in an 1830s house saved from demolition for a parking lot and moved to 500 North Main. Much has been done. Much remains to do before it can open.

The Society and its museum depend on your continuing interest and support. When your dues letter and membership form arrive, please give them careful consideration.

Or you can simply send a check or money order payable to Washtenaw County Historical Society to: WCHS Membership, c/o Patty Creal, Treasurer, P O Box 3336, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336. An addressed envelope will accompany the dues letter.

Annual dues are: individual, $15; couple/family, $25; students, seniors (age 60+), $10; senior couple (one 60+), $19; association/business, $50; and patron, $100. Additional donations gratefully accepted.



EARLY 20TH CENTURY HOSPITAL CARE HOMEY

"Before the Civil War hospitals were a last resort for people who didn't have a home to be sick in or relatives to take care of them. They were usually run by a charitable institution."

"For anyone who had their own home there was no advantage in going to a hospital," Grace Shackman, local historical writer, told the WCHS October audience in old St. Joe Hospital. It is now the 400 North Ingalls Building and headquarters of the University of Michigan School of Nursing.

Ms. Shackman teamed with U-M Professor Linda Strodtman, president of the U-M Nursing History Society, to present "An Historical Overview of Hospital Care in Ann Arbor from the 1870s to the 1940s."

"Diseases would spread in those old hospitals. There was less privacy. No one wanted to go to a hospital if they could avoid it," Ms. Shackman said.

"The modern hospital developed 1870-1917. Three inventions between 1870 and 1900 made it an advantage to go to a hospital—X rays, anesthesia and sterilization.

"With X rays you could obviously diagnose people better.

"Anesthesia put people to sleep for painless operations. I shudder to think of operations people had on kitchen tables before this.

"Then, of course, sterilization meant diseases wouldn't spread nearly as fast.

"Before this, operations were done as a very last resort. No one wanted an operation.

"Now there was a financial advantage for hospitals and doctors—they could charge for an operation. They couldn't charge all that much for just lying in bed.

"Hospitals started springing up. At first, the vast majority were in homes. The institutional hospitals, as we know them, started catching up and by World War II they were basically what there was."

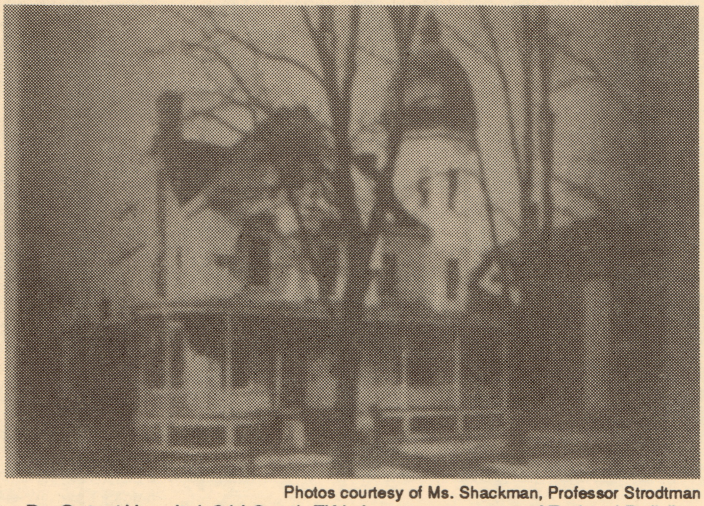
Grace first heard of house hospitals from a video about the history of St. Joseph Hospital at a WCHS meeting. It said that before St. Joseph Hospital started in 1911, people had to be cared for at small proprietary hospitals.

She had never heard of these. She decided to do an article. It turned out to be a bigger subject than she expected.

"I've now gotten to the point where I can speak of four with some authority and I've found at least 14 others.

"Ann Arbor may have been unusual to have so many, probably because we had a medical school here. Two of them were run by doctors in the medical school. They had patients coming from all around, different states, in fact.

"After while, the home hospitals were just as backward as the earlier ways of medicine. Once you had doctors who specialized in different things and so much medical equipment that you got less good care at home hospitals, they started fading out. They usually died out when the owner died.



Photos courtesy of Ms. Shackman, Professor Strodtman

Dr. Gates' Hospital, 314 South Fifth Avenue, now part of Federal Building site.

"When I started asking around, the house hospital most mentioned was Dr. Neil Gates's at 314 South Fifth Avenue. The house was torn down in 1973 to make room for the Federal Building.

It was originally built as a private home, as were all the hospitals I discovered in Ann Arbor. After it was no longer a hospital, it was a rooming house until it was torn down.

"Originally, Dr. Cyrenus Darling, who became one of the founders of St. Joseph Hospital, started a hospital at 314 South Fifth Avenue in 1906. He had eight patient rooms and an operating room.

"Then it was known as Maplehurst Hospital for a little while. When Dr. Gates moved in he built two more wards so that it would hold 28 people at a time. His mother lived in the Queen Anne style tower.

"Janet Ivory remembers her grandmother liked to sit in the window and watch the world go by.

"Dr. Gates did just about everything in that hospital. Maternity was a lot of his business. When he moved in, he added another operating room and used the first one as a maternity room. He also added X rays.

"People have told me about going there for pleurisy, appendicitis, getting something in their eye, an explosion. His grandson, David Gates, said he was known for never turning a patient away.

"He grew up in Ann Arbor, went to the U-M Medical School and started practice in Dexter, then moved to Ann Arbor. He continued to have a large rural practice after moving to Ann Arbor. He made house calls out in the country up through World War II.

"He usually made his country calls in winter in a one-horse sleigh. During the 1918 flu epidemic when he was out on calls all the time, he hired a driver so he could sleep in the sleigh between visits.

"He never took a vacation. He told his children and grandchildren he would take a vacation the day nobody got sick.

"He also had an office where people came for office calls. He kept incredibly busy. His wife had a big refrigerator because a lot of people paid him in produce.

"Another grandson, Jeff Rentschler, said Dr. Gates was never financially secure until he got his hospital going. House calls and office calls didn't make it.

"There were probably hospitals like Dr. Gates's all over the country. I think it was the quintessential small hospital.

"There was a nurse-run hospital at 1444 Huron at North Revena, run by Mrs. Josephine Groves and her husband, Otto. It was a regular three-bedroom house. The Groves slept in one bedroom, the other two were for patients. There was also a third room downstairs where a third patient could sleep.

"Dr. Gates's younger brother, John, was the main one to send patients there although others did too.

"Quite a few people had experience there, mainly maternity but I talked to somebody who broke her arm and had it set there. She also had her tonsils out there.

"The operating room was the bathroom. Meals were prepared in the regular kitchen.

"Two of the four hospitals I know most about were run by doctors important at University Hospital.

"Dr. Reuben Peterson, born in Massachusetts, went to Harvard for both his undergraduate and medical degrees.

"When he came to U-M Medical School in 1901 he discovered people were waiting to get into University Hospital. Women would stay in nearby rooming houses, waiting until a bed was free. So he decided to start

his own hospital.

"He had the biggest private hospital that I've discovered. At one time, he could treat 40 people at a time. He once had ten buildings—the main hospital, an annex, a third building, a maternity hospital, places for nurses to stay, a nursing school and place for staff to stay.

"At his peak he also had two buildings on South University that other doctors served. He started on South "U" but quickly got his place at 620 Forest where the public parking structure is now.

"Dr. Peterson's hospital was totally a women's hospital. Alice Ziegler put me in touch with Clara Schnierle who worked for his hospital right before it closed in the '30s.

"When she worked there it had shrunk down to eight rooms and two buildings. As she described it, he would come every afternoon to see his patients after he was done at University Hospital. On certain days he did operations. Every summer he would go back to Massachusetts.

"Dr. Peterson ran his nursing school 1907-1920. By 1920, his nurses couldn't learn enough just working with women. After that, it looks like he put more energy into the U-M part of his job. He became head of the obstetrics and gynecology department and published a lot of papers. He closed his hospital in 1932 and retired to Massachusetts.

"Dr. David Murray Cowie ran the fourth hospital. He was a U-M professor of internal medicine and children's diseases—people had broader titles than they would today.

"Dr. Cowie grew up in New Brunswick. He went first to Battle Creek, then U-M and finally to Heidelberg to study. When he came back to U-M, he was asked to start the pediatrics department. His specialty seemed to be diagnosis.

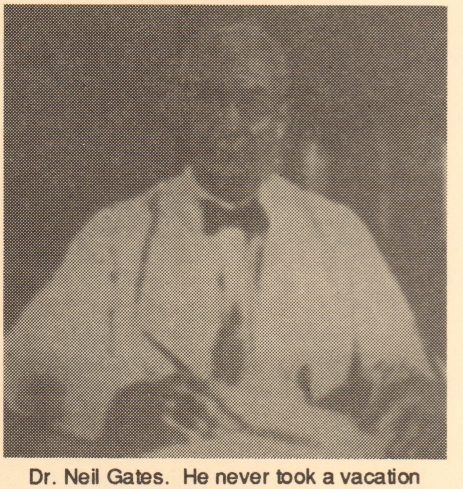
"In 1912 he had a small hospital on the second floor at 122 North Fourth Avenue at Ann. Later city directories list two other hospitals there—one run by Katherine Martins and an Institute of Ozonotherapy which I know nothing about.

"Dr. Sanders, now in town, remembers being brought to Dr. Cowie's hospital from Coldwater as an infant because he had feeding problems.

"In 1920 Dr. Cowie established his hospital on Division Street next door to Kempf House. He bought the former private home and added a third floor and a dining room on the back.

"I was lucky enough to ask Edith Kempf about it before she died. Her in-laws had lived next door. She said, 'Oh, that was a hospital for rich ladies. The nurses wore pink uniforms.' It sounded like a fancy hotel. They had elevators and the best care.

"Dr. Thurston Thieme remembers when he was an intern, coming with Dr. Frederick Coller to Dr. Cowie's hospital. Dr. Thieme would be laying out the instruments and Dr. Coller would be complaining the whole



Dr. Neil Gates. He never took a vacation

time, 'Why do I have to come here? The patient should be over at University Hospital.'

Dr. Thieme said Dr. Cowie got the best patients and the doctors came to them."

Dr. Cowie died in 1940. He was on his way to his cottage in the Irish Hills, got sick and came back to his own hospital and died.

When I started this research I thought most of the hospitals would be in the 19th century but most were in the 20th century.

"Other former hospitals she found:

"Dr. J. B. Lynd's, started in the 19th century in what is now Muehlig Funeral Chapel, 403 South Fourth Avenue at East William. Dr. Lynd was from Canada and died in the 1918 flu epidemic. His sister then ran a rooming house there until Muehlig's bought it, I think in 1928.

"Martha Washington House, 709 West Huron, 1890-1906. When Dr. William J. Herdman, who ran it, graduated from U-M, they named him a professor of anatomy. He did three interesting things.

"It was against the law to use dead bodies to study anatomy. Carefully worded articles say he had trouble procuring the materials necessary for instruction. He got the law changed.

"Next he got into electrotherapy which I don't know a lot about. He had a lab which was very early if not the first in the country.

"Third, he got interested in mental illness. He worried that doctors would graduate knowing nothing about mental illness. He started a program where students went to Coldwater to see mentally ill people. He was the first professor of psychiatry.

"I have not read anything about his hospital. He died in 1906."

Cyrus Burrett and Dean Tyler Smith, both homeopaths, ran a hospital at 416 South Fifth Avenue. Smith got a degree from Chicago Homeopathic College in 1889. Later he got an honorary degree from U-M where he taught. Burrett lived in the hospital.

"Dr. Carrie Classen, an osteopath, ran a hospital at 429 Hamilton Place. She got her degree in Des Moines, Iowa.

"Dr. William Blair, 311 South Division, across from Kempf House.

"Dr. Howard Cummings, Washtenaw Private Hospital at State and Catherine. George Wahr Sallade was born there and Louis Doll remembers it

"Maplehurst was nurse-run, I assume. James and Muriel McLaren ran it, first at Dr. Gates's location, then at 822 Arch Street.

"Vreeland Maternity Home, 315 Mosley, run by Belva and Vern Vreeland. I just found it in the city directory. Vern is listed as a meat cutter.

The buildings of three other hospitals are gone and Grace has found no pictures. They were Ann Arbor Private Hospital, first on Huron near First, then 1129 Washtenaw; Bethel Faith Home, 126 Observatory, and Curtrest, 1100 East Huron, run by a woman named Curtis.

"When it started in 1911, the first St. Joseph Hospital was in a home, too, on the southwest corner of State and Kingsley across from St. Thomas church. The house is still there, Grace concluded.

"When we were forming the U-M Nursing History Society in 1983," President Linda Strodtman said, "someone told me that an antique shop on Main Street had an album of pictures that looked like U-M nurses."

She bought it and displayed it at an alumni reunion that fall. A nurse who started in the class of 1923 recognized an instructor, Elba Morse. Through that and going to Bentley Library I found that these pictures were mainly from Peterson's Hospital.

"I'm interested in the history and politics of nursing and how nurses actually delivered nursing care, she said. Of a picture of a nurse at a patient's bedside, she said, "I'm fairly certain the head of that bed does not roll up. Nurses would have to bend way over.

"Around 1873 three major hospital schools of nursing were developing in the United States—Bellevue, Massachusetts General and Connecticut.

"Society women were involved and everybody was concerned with raising nursing up from the Sarah Gamp image Charles Dickens portrayed.

"So nursing uniforms were copied off Victorian upper class lady's wear of the day. They ended up with these starched

SCARF ON BIRDHOUSE MEANT DOCTOR IS IN

Dr. Gates lived at 440 South Main Street (between Packard and Jefferson) and the house backed up to the Ann Arbor Railroad. He had an informal contract with the railroad—when he was home he tied a scarf on the birdhouse in back, Ms. Shackman said.

Then if someone on a passing train needed help he would come out and treat them—perhaps take a cinder out of an eye.

long uniforms with long sleeves with separate starched cuffs. Many times they had a separate top part of a pinafore that had to be hand pleated and pinned to the skirt with straight pins. They would be stiffer than a board and it was quite a bit of work just to get yourself dressed in the morning.

"Imagine, they'd work 12 hour days, six and a half days a week. The hospitals must have done the laundry for them—the nurses wouldn't have time. A lot of early nursing caps were fluted organdy—a high upkeep item.

Peterson's Hospital nurse training school started in 1907. Elba Morse, who graduated in 1909, was shown in her nurse training uniform.

"The rigor was not too rigorous as far as education in those times. Literally, you were in apprenticeship. If you put in enough time they would give you a diploma.

"Peterson's school closed in 1920 because they couldn't keep up with the standards. Nursing as a discipline was developing. Professional organizations started around the turn of the century and they were addressing curriculum needs.

"There had been a huge proliferation of training schools in small hospitals. At one point when Elba was at Peterson's, it was only licensed for 12 beds. What kind of experience would that provide?

In one picture, Elba and a group of nurses are at Pontiac State Hospital. "I surmise Reuben Peterson maybe farmed his nurses out to learn other skills.

"It looks like they are getting dietary instruction. There's a chef in back and a wine bottle in the picture, so they used wine medicinally.

Bouquets of roses decorated dining tables in the foreground of what seemed to be a graduation dinner for the nurses. The student nurses and their instructors, Fantine Pemberton and Elba Morse, were lined up in back.

THANKS TO DR. COWIE GOITERS NOW UNCOMMON

Dr. Cowie was responsible for iodine in salt. In the 1920s he worried because a lot of people in Michigan suffered from goiters because our soil didn't have enough iodine in it, Ms. Shackman said.

He asked the state to form a commission to study the problem. He was appointed chairman. They first thought of adding iodine to water but figured that would be too expensive. Then they thought of adding it to salt.

"In 1928, the US Food and Drug Administration said 'iodine' could be in the same size letters as 'salt' on the label.

Dr. Peterson's Hospital (left), 620 Forest, and nurses residence, now public parking structure.

"The patient record was one page with a blank up in the corner for the nurse to sign. It sounded like they did a case assignment. A typical stay would be three weeks or so. They would pay $20 a week for nurse care. If they needed a special nurse it would be another $20.

"The lady in the class of 1923 told me what a humane, wonderful faculty person Elba was, with a sense of humor. Most reports of nursing faculty in those days don't give that kind of picture. They were usually straight-laced. Although they might have had a nice heart inside they wouldn't let it show."

Anna Harrison was pictured in 1893, two years after she graduated. She was already superintendent of the U-M training school. Fantine Pemberton, who helped Dr. Peterson set up his hospital, at one point was director of nursing at U-M. Elba Morse also went back and forth between Peterson's Hospital and U-M.

A series of pictures illustrated the history of U-M hospitals and nurses.

"The Medical School existed since 1850 but patients were housed in homes. When they needed surgery or whatever, they would haul patients over by litter to the medical department, do whatever they were going to and send them back out.

"The first University Hospital opened in 1869 in a former professor's house. It was purported to be the first university owned and operated hospital."

Additions were built on about 1876 in the pavilion style advocated by Florence Nightingale in her *Notes on Hospitals*. "They were made of wood and intended to be burned after five years or so because they would be so infected."

In 1893 medical students came in for surgical rounds, dressed in suits. In the foreground was one of the first instances of technology made to help nurses—a bandage winding machine. Then, nurses had to cut bandages from fabric and roll them up.

Early hospitals used lots of windows for light. Heat would come from a stove in the center of the room. Floors were wood. They cleaned rooms with carbolic acid.

The supervising nurse's desk sat in the center of the ward. Essentially the hospital was staffed with nursing students. When you graduated you worked out in the community, not back at U-M hospital, Professor Strodtman said.

The Department of Medicine started the U-M nurse training school in 1891.

A new University Hospital opened in 1925. Sixteen bed wards were shown. Beds then had castors and hand cranks so you could crank up the heads of the beds.

"Somebody told me that when doctors came in for rounds in the morning, not only were the nurses expected to have the patients in tip top shape but each castor had to be turned in. Nurses kicked them in place."

There was a sink at the end of the ward and then a sun porch. In later years those were turned into patient units.

A 1930s aerial view looking north showed the hospital with the old observatory on the left and Simpson Memorial Institute on the right. The old contagion hospital and other buildings in back have now been replaced with medical science buildings.

"Many of us wanted to preserve the front administrative building for a museum but the U-M said no, it would take at least $3 million to bring it up to code. The archway of the front entrance is in blocks stored at Willow Run. At some point we'd like to see it as part of another building or a free standing arch."

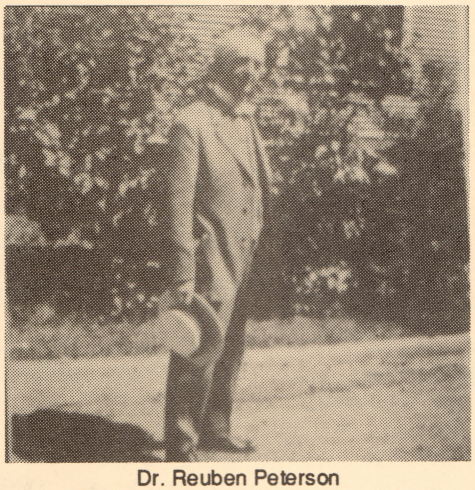
The wards didn't change much in the 1940s except they added tracks for curtains around the beds. They had wall suction but not yet wall oxygen. A glass

STARCHED UNIFORMS STIFF AS A BOARD

A member of the class of 1931 told Professor Strodtman how they coped with their stiffly starched nurse's uniforms in the 1930s.

They would attach a rubber band to two safety pins, one pinned to the collar, the other to their bra, so when they moved, their collar would move with them instead of cutting into their necks.

They also would rub soap around the neck edge of the uniform because they literally would get raw necks from the stiffness.



Dr. Reuben Peterson
U-M Professor, also ran private hospital

bottle looked like it contained blood products.

During the shortage of nurses in World War II, nurses aides were introduced. "There is now a resurgence of nurses aides."

In the 1960s wards are pictured in color, the beds can be raised electrically. "Those beds carried us through 1986 when we moved into the new hospital." A wooden wheelchair in the picture "probably dates from the 1930s. An earlier vintage wheelchair had a single wheel in back," she said.

"There's a lot written in the late 1800s of the battles between allopathic and homeopathic schools of medicine. If the Legislature gave one school something, the other wanted to make sure they got their share.

"In 1891 the homeopaths built a hospital quite similar to the allopathic where Taubman Medical Library is now. Each school had their own nursing school and nurses residence.

"Around 1900 the homeopaths built a hospital that is still standing—the ROTC Building by the School of Dentistry and the Natural History Museum.

"I think they just took out the original furnace about a year and a half ago. The ventilation system was very intricate with different fans. They were very *avant garde* as far as providing good quality air.

Professor Strodtman is on a steering committee for an historical center for health sciences. They plan to lobby the U-M not to tear down the former homeopathic hospital.

In a picture of the homeopathic surgical amphitheater, the doctors and nurses were not wearing masks. She couldn't tell if they were wearing gloves. Dr. Halsted at Johns Hopkins was responsible for bringing in rubber gloves to wear during surgical procedures in the late 1800s, she said.

She noted quite a number of women students. "There was a fairly high percentage of women in medicine in the late 1800s. It took quite a while into this century to equal it. It's now about 40 percent women in medical school."

HOW TO ELEVATE PATIENT

Before there was a mechanism to raise the head of the bed, they would put a straight chair on the bed, turn it over and use the back to prop pillows against, Professor Strodtman said.

LONG CAREER OF FIRST NURSE IN MICHIGAN WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME BEGAN IN ANN ARBOR, ENDED IN UP

Student nurses circa 1909
Elba Morse (center).

Elba Morse, the first nurse in the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, had a 50 year career in nursing which began in Ann Arbor, Professor Linda Strodtman of the U-M School of Nursing told the October WCHS audience. She also had an exhibit about Miss Morse in the nursing school entry hall.

Elba graduated from Peterson's Hospital Training School in 1909. She became an instructor at Peterson's, then took charge of the maternity department at University Hospital and taught maternity nursing, then was superintendent of nurses at Peterson's.

As a Red Cross nurse in 1918, she recruited nurses for the Army and Navy out of the Chicago office.

"After the war, Red Cross nurses were the precursors of public health nurses. Elba was one of the first rural public health nurses in Michigan. She worked in her native Sanilac County in the Thumb. She drove an estimated 300,000 miles and went through 19 cars."

Because she didn't have enough room in the car for all her equipment she got some farmers to make her a trailer. A sign on the side said "Better Babies for Sanilac County."

"Michigan Senator James Couzens, who gave money for Couzens Hall nurses residence on the U-M campus, in 1929 donated $10 million to the State of Michigan to be used for health and welfare of children.

"Couzens knew the Upper Peninsula was a place of poverty and he wanted to set up a health clinic there staffed by U-M pediatricians to care for patients who didn't have doctors.

"Where there were physicians, he thought U-M doctors would be expert resources and could educate the UP physicians in the most modern care.

"According to the history of the Children's Fund, they hired Elba Morse, ostensibly to go up and convince the people of the UP that they should want this.

"Reading between the lines, I think it really wasn't the people she had to convince, it was the UP physicians. You can imagine if you were practicing in the UP and these elitist medical school physicians were coming."

The late Dr. Harry Towsley told her he was sent up there as a medical student. He agreed with Professor Strodtman that the physicians up there didn't want U-M physicians to come. There was quite a bit of animosity, he said.

"It was Elba Morse who sold the concept to the community up there. She became superintendent of the UP clinic and served 23 years."

Also involved with the Children's Fund was Dr. Goldie Corneliuson. She and Elba decided they would like to see a children's health camp in the UP.

"They found an abandoned dairy farm at Big Bay, about 25 miles northwest of Marquette. They built the Baycliff Health Camp which still exists today. It has served eight to ten thousand children.

"The children would stay the whole summer. At the end of summer there were often tearful good-byes. Some of the children returned to homes with dirt floors.

"The children were hand-picked by each county, usually the most needy. They were given uniforms at camp so there would be no social stigma. The camp soon took children with health problems—diabetes, asthma, hearing or vision disorders.

"As a result of all her work, Elba Morse was given an honorary master of science degree by U-M in 1953. As far as I know she is the only nurse who has ever received an honorary degree from U-M."

She got a doctor of science degree from Northern Michigan University at Marquette in 1955.

She retired as camp director in 1965 and went to live with a longtime friend in Iron River. She died there July 3, 1975, age 93.

Henry and Clara Ford had a vacation home in the exclusive Huron Mountain Club near Big Bay. Knowing the Fords liked to square dance, Elba invited them to barn dances at the camp.

"She would put her neediest children out in front. As a result, Henry Ford paid for a lot of children to come down state and have surgery at Henry Ford Hospital. He even relocated some families and employed the fathers in the auto industry.

"She was a pretty slick operator," Professor Strodtman said.

HISTORY HAPPENINGS

INVOLVE HOLIDAYS, OUTHOUSES, WWII

Chelsea Historical Society: 7:30 p.m. second Monday at depot.

Dexter Society: Potluck dinner and tree trimming, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, November 18.

Christmas bazaar, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, December 4. Christmas storytelling and sing, 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 10. All events at museum.

Museum, 3443 Inverness, open Fridays, Saturdays 1-3 p.m. through December 10, with special exhibit of 1920s clothes.

Manchester Society: 7:30 p.m. third Tuesday, at Blacksmith Shop. November 16: "Personal Memories of World War II and Lessons from War," with local people who lived through it, including Governor Swainson, a veteran and amputee, Jacqueline Armentrout, a "Rosie the Riveter" at Willow Run, and Rosemary Whelan, who was a child in London then.

Salem Society: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 17 at Salem Town Hall Mary MacDonald of Dearborn speaking on "Temples of Convenience" (outhouses).

NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 20

No meetings are planned in December or January. The next program will be Sunday, February 20, 1994. Sally Bund is to talk about "The Work of Architect
Gordon Lloyd with Particular Attention to the Forest Hill Cemetery Gate House."

Saline Society: Christmas in Saline antique show and sale, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, November 28 Saline Middle School.

Webster Society: 7:45 p.m. second Monday. January 10, at the Calhouns, 3290 West North Territorial Road. Slides of Yankee Air Force Museum at Willow Run.

Ypsilanti Society: Christmas open house, 2-5 p.m., Sunday, December 5, at museum, 220 North Huron. Holiday music, refreshments and Victorian style decorations by Kathryn Howard. Museum also will be open 2-4 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays December 11,12,18, 19

YPSI'S 'REAL MC COY' WILL BE HONORED WITH MARKER

Plans are afoot to honor Ypsilanti's famous Black inventor, Elijah McCoy (1844-1929), with a state historical marker to be placed on the grounds of the Ypsilanti Public Library, A.P. Marshall has announced..

In 1872 McCoy patented a time-saving automatic lubrication system for railroad locomotives. Orders came from all over the world. Buyers wanted "the real McCoy," not an imitation. It was the first of his 78 inventions.

Ypsilanti Rotary Club is raising funds and research is underway to document and word the marker.

Professor Marshall, retired dean of academic services at Eastern Michigan University, is author of *Unconquered Souls: The History of the African American* in Ypsilanti, 1993 and a booklet, "The Real McCoy of Ypsilanti." He is also a member of the WCHS Board of Directors.

WCHS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR CHRISTMAS SALES

Kerrytown and Little Professor Book Store at Westgate Shopping Center have offered space to Bets Hansen, chairman, to set up our portable museum shop for Christmas sales.

The shop has tee shirts, note paper, local history books, wildflower mobiles and other items.

Now she needs volunteers who can spare a few hours to help staff it. Kerrytown space is available Sunday, November 21, 10-5, Friday and Saturday, the 26th and 27th, 10-6.

Little Professor offered space December 17, 18 and 19, 9 to 6. If you can help please call Bets, 663-5467.

TV-VCR DRIVE AT 85%

WCHS has collected 28,535 points or more than 85 percent of the 33,283 needed to earn a TV-VCR by collecting points from Bill Knapp's Restaurants.

Anyone who eats at Knapp's may request a yellow points slip from the cashier each time, with one point given for each dollar spent. Please keep collecting and give or send to Alice Ziegler, 537 Riverview Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

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WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN MICHIGAN

2:00 P.M. • Sunday November 21, 1993

BentleyLibrary 1150 Beal U-M North Campus Ann Arbor, Michigan

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Post Office Box 3336
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